

More than 1,000 watch 'Super Bowl' bridge move

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What state officials called the Super Bowl of bridges moving has taken place with plenty of fanfare.

More than 1,100 people watched late Saturday and early Sunday as self-propelled modular transporters put in place the 3.8 million-pound bridge over Interstate 15 in American Fork, the Deseret News of Salt Lake City reported.

What was billed as the longest two-span bridge ever moved in the Western Hemisphere attracted federal and state transportation officials, as well as industry professionals from as far away as China.

"We like to describe it as a football field with end zones," said Robert Stewart, a construction manager for the Utah Department of Transportation. "It's an incredible size of bridge to be moving into place."

The Sam White Bridge was built 500 feet away from its final destination to minimize a traffic crunch. With the help of two sets of hydraulic jacks on wheels, the 254-foot-long bridge was lifted 21 feet into the air, then moved across eight freeway lanes and lowered into place.

The bridge's length is nearly three-fourths of the length of an NFL-regulation size football field and its end zones.

It took contractors about five hours to complete the task.

"We've kind of made the connection with the Super Bowl experience," said Bryce Jaynes, a project engineer for UDOT. "We're basically moving a Super Bowl field up there, and we're moving it in a matter of hours."

The bridge is one of 59 that will be constructed, rebuilt or modified by December 2012 as part of UDOT's \$1.7 billion makeover of I-15 in Utah County. The state-funded project will reconstruct 24 miles of the freeway between Lehi and Spanish Fork to meet transportation demands for the next 20 years.

Information from: Deseret News, <http://www.deseretnews.com>